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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 267  
By Bunch

A RESOLUTION To honor and congratulate Rachel Smalley upon her receipt of the Yes I Can! award.

WHEREAS, It is the pleasure of this General Assembly to honor those young persons who, through their dedication and hard work, have distinguished themselves as citizens of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, One such exemplary person is Rachel Smalley who has been named a 2001 Yes I Can! Award winner by the Foundation for Exceptional Children; and

WHEREAS, A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Bradley Central High School, Rachel will be recognized at the Council for Exceptional Children's annual convention in Kansas City; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smalley is one of only 35 students from across the United States, Canada, and the former Soviet Union who have been selected by the Foundation for Exceptional Children; the Yes I Can! award commends the achievements of children and youth who have prevailed over their disability and have made outstanding contributions in the areas of art, academics, athletics, extracurricular activities, community service, employment, and independent living skills; and

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WHEREAS, Foundation Director, Jacqueline Lewis-Tillman wrote of the award recipients, "We are very proud of all of you, and your selection is truly an honor"; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Smalley is being honored for her accomplishments in the employment category; she has worked a full-time job at Bradley/Cleveland Services, while attending high school, and will be graduating this spring; and

WHEREAS, As an Individual Support Specialist, Rachel provides on-going assistance for clients who are cognitively-challenged, yet live on their own; she aids clients with their grocery shopping, housekeeping, physician appointments, and other basic life skills; with grace and kindness, she offers valuable support and friendship; and

WHEREAS, Having overcome her own challenges through determination and hard work, Rachel Smalley now helps others achieve the same, and is an inspiration to all who know her; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished young woman is also a state Yes I Can! award recipient; and

WHEREAS, Rachel's mother, Leann Smalley, along with her friends and her community are very proud of her significant achievement; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Smalley epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; she stands as a role model for all citizens of this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting for this legislative body to recognize Ms. Smalley as one of the most outstanding young people in our State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Rachel Smalley, commend her academic and professional triumphs and her strength of character, applaud her compassion and courage, and congratulate her upon her receipt of the prestigious Yes I Can! Award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we also offer Rachel Smalley our heartfelt wishes for much happiness and success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.